

Message Text

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PASS JCS CHAIRMAN

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EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: MILI SZ
SUBJ: SWISS MILITARY VIEWS ON WORLD AFFAIR

AT MY RESIDENCE ON NOV 22 IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL BOLLIGER,
CHIEF OF THE SWISS AIR FORCE, GENERAL WYLER, CHIEF OF PLANS ON
THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF, AND GENERAL WEIDENMANN, FORMER CHIEF
OF SWISS INTELLIGENCE, AND OTHER SWISS GOVT OFFICIALS, THE
FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE:

1) SADAT VISIT TO ISRAEL - TRIP CAME AS A SURPRISE TO SWISS. IT
TOOK COURAGE ON BOTH SIDES TO COMPLETE SUCH A GESTURE ALTHOUGH
CERTAINLY TOO EARLY TO ASSESS IMPACT, IT WAS WELL WORTH THE
RISKS INVOLVED.

2) ASSESSMENT OF MODERNIZATION OF SOVIET FORCES ON WESTERN
FRONT

- GENERAL BOLLIGER EXPRESSED OPINION THAT AT THIS TIME THE
SOVIETS ARE PROBABLY AS MUCH ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED AS
MILITARILY. HOWEVER, THERE IS A FEAR AMONG SWISS THAT AS
THE PRESENT REGIME IS REPLACED BY YOUNGER MORE AGGRESSIVE
MEN THEY COULD VERY WELL BE TEMPTED TO USE THE WEAPONS.

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ALSO THESE NEW LEADERS MAY NOT HAVE EXPERIENCED THE
HARDSHIPS WHICH HAVE CONSTRAINED PRESENT LEADERS.

- THE RUSSIANS, HISTORICALLY EXPANSIONISTS ARE THE ONLY MAJOR
POWER WITH AN EXPANSIONIST POLICY TODAY.

- IN TRYING TO ASSESS THE INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIETS IT WAS

MOST INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE SWISS CONFIDED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS AT THE GENERAL STAFF LEVEL THAT THERE IS NO ONE IN THE SWISS GOVT WHO REALLY "KNOWS" A RUSSIAN GENERAL TODAY. THEY INTIMIDATED THAT THEY DID HAVE THIS CAPABILITY IN THE PAST.

- WE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN BY ANY ATTEMPTS TO PRESENT EURO-COMMUNISM AS A DIFFERENT BRAND OF COMMUNISM. WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH THEY WILL ALL MARCH TO THE SAME MUSIC.

3) EUROPEAN ASSESSMENT OF THE U S -

- GENERAL WEIDENMANN FELT STRONGLY THAT THE FEELIN IN EUROPE IS THAT THE EUROPEAN NATIONS FULLY REALIZE THAT THEY NEED THE U S AND THAT THE U S DOES NOT NEED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR SURVIVAL.

- A POINT MADE MOST STRONGLY AND AGREED UPON BY ALL WAS THAT THE FREE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, THOSE THAT SHARE OUR HOPES AND IDEALS (WITH PERHAPS THE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE) ARE ALL LOOKING TO THE U S FOR LEADERSHIP AND THAT WE MUST PROVIDE THAT LEADERSHIP ON MANY FRONTS, WHETHER IT BE ECONOMIC, MILITARY OR IN FOREIGN RELATIONS.

- SOME CONFIDED SEPARATELY THAT EVEN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ARE MOST INTERESTED IN WHAT LEADERSHIP WE WILL GIVE THE FREE WORLD.

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